

**REMARKS**

Claims 21-40 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over *Reddy* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,273,191) alone or in combination with *Cowan* or *Gilbert*. *Reddy* is a prior art reference under 102(e), and therefore according to 103(c) is not available as a prior art reference wherein the subject matter was commonly owned. Applicants are providing the statement of common ownership set forth below to remove *Reddy* as a prior art reference.

Given that the primary reference, *Reddy*, has been removed, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness as to the pending claims. Furthermore, in view of the inapplicability of *Reddy*, Applicants have amended the claims to recapture subject matter previously surrendered in an effort to distinguish over *Reddy*. It is Applicants' intent that the amended claims be given a full range of equivalents and not be limited in any way by previous amendments or remarks regarding *Reddy*.

**Change of Address**

Applicants respectfully bring to the Examiner's attention the change of address filed May 21, 2003, and hereby request that subsequent communications be sent to the corrected address.

**STATEMENT OF COMMON OWNERSHIP**

Application number 09/854,857 (the present application) and the prior art reference *Reddy* (U.S. Patent 6,273,191) were, at the time the invention of Application 09/854,857 was made, owned by Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 8.27.03

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